



**A Service of Thanksgiving  
for the life of  
Max Edward Morath  
October 1, 1926 — June 19, 2023  
June 29, 2023**

**PRELUDE** selections from Max Morath's CD, "One for the Road"

## GATHERING

*Please stand as you are comfortable  
as the family enters following the processional cross.*

### ENTRANCE HYMN ELW #422 *For All the Saints*

#### WORDS OF WELCOME AND ASSURANCE

P: Welcome in the name of Jesus. We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember Max before God, to give thanks for his life as we commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*The pall is a sign of being clothed with Christ in baptism.*

P: All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ. In his baptism, Max was clothed with Christ. In the day of Christ's coming, he shall be clothed with glory.

#### ACCLAMATION AND PRAISE

P: Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

**C: We glorify you.**

P: Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you.

**C: We praise you.**

P: Holy Spirit, author, and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

**C: We worship you.**

P: To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

#### GREETING

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

#### TIME FOR SHARING

Kathy Morath  
Lynn Black

#### CHOIR ANTHEM *The 23rd Psalm (dedicated to my mother)*

music by Bobby McFerrin  
Soli Deo Gloria Choir

*The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all I need,  
She makes me lie down in green meadows, beside the still waters, She will lead.*

*She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs,*

*She leads me in a path of good things, and fills my heart with songs.*

*Even though I walk, through a dark & dreary land, There is nothing that can shake me,  
She has said She won't forsake me, I'm in her hand.*

*She sets a table before me, in the presence of my foes,  
She anoints my head with oil, And my cup overflows.*

*Surely, surely goodness & kindness will follow me, all the days of my life,  
And I will live in her house, Forever, forever & ever.*

*Glory be to our Mother, & Daughter, and to the Holy of Holies  
As it was in the beginning, is now & ever shall be, world, without end. Amen.*

## WORD

### READINGS

*Proverbs 22:1-4*  
*Micah 6:8*  
*Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*  
*Philippians 4:8-9*

Keith Loveland  
Keith Loveland  
David Macdonald  
Pastor Dianne O. Loufman  
Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

### MEDITATION

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

### HYMN ELW #785 *It is Well with My Soul*

### APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**  
    **who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,**  
    **suffered under Pontius Pilate,**  
    **was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to**  
    **the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended**  
    **into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**  
    **and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,**  
    **the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**  
    **the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*After each petition*

P: Lord in your mercy,  
C: **hear our prayer.**

## MEAL

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who, enthroned forever at your right hand,  
intercedes for us as our great high priest.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,  
with earth and sea and all their creatures, with all of creation,  
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly      Lord, God of pow'r and  
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The thanksgiving continues with the Words of Institution, concluding with the Lord's Prayer:*

We are bold to pray the prayer Jesus taught his disciples:

**Our Father and Mother, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ dwells with us here.

All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

*The assembly is seated.*

*We practice Eucharistic hospitality; all are welcome. Receive the bread and dip it into the wine (red) or grape juice (white). Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

*During communion you are invited to light a candle on the Tree of Life in remembrance of Max.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

*I am Sure I Shall See the Goodness of the Lord*

I am sure I shall see the good-ness of the Lord in the  
land of the liv - ing. Yes, I shall see the  
good-ness of our God, hold firm, trust in the Lord.

*Nothing Can Trouble*

Na - da te tur - be, na - da te es - pan - te.  
Noth - ing can trou - ble, noth - ing can fright - en.

Quien a Dios tie - ne na - da le fal - ta. Na - da te tur - be,  
Those who seek God shall nev - er go want - ing. Noth - ing can trou - ble,

na - da te es - pan - te. So - lo Dios bas - ta.  
noth - ing can fright - en. God a - lone fills us.

**HYMN ELW #598 *For By Grace You Have Been Saved***

**HYMN ACS #1084 *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me***

1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to  
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -  
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,  
4 Walk - ing be - hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to  
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that

move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:  
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:  
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:  
light my way, and from be -neath, a -bove, and all ways:  
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:

*Refrain*

O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

## SENDING

**COMMENDATION**

**TABLE BLESSING**

**BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL**

P: Let us go forth in peace

C: In the name of Christ. Amen.

*Please stand as you are comfortable*

**HYMN ELW #689 *Praise and Thanksgiving***

**POSTLUDE *Canticle of the Turning***

Soli Deo Gloria Choir

Rory Cooney, based on the Magnificat  
traditional Irish tune *Star of County Down* arr. Anne Krentz Organ

You are invited to join the family for refreshments and fellowship downstairs in the Parish Hall immediately following the service. Feel free to go down the stairways at the back of the sanctuary.

An elevator is available near the entry to the sanctuary.



Officiant:	Pastor Dianne O. Loufman
Music Leaders:	Soli Deo Gloria Choir; Michael Fuchs, director; Karen Sande, organ/piano
Readers:	Keith Loveland, David Macdonald
Cross Bearer:	Lucy Kragness
Urn Bearer:	Jordan Claire Wagner
Communion Servers:	Paul and Carol Anderson, Ann Beck
Sound:	Carl Guldner
Live Stream:	Bryan Gatten

# faithlovecommunity

First Lutheran Church

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Max Morath was born October 1, 1926 in Colorado Springs, and died June 19, 2023 in Duluth, Minnesota. He grew up in Colorado Springs, where his first job as a 17-year-old radio announcer at KVOR in that city launched his professional life in media and theatre.

As a child he studied piano and harmony, while mastering the rudiments of ragtime piano from his mother. He graduated from Colorado College in 1948 with a B.A. in English, and from the Stanford-NBC Radio and Television Institute in 1951. Jazz and broadcasting jobs in Florida, Dallas, and Phoenix, combined with his appearances as pianist and musical director for melodrama companies in Cripple Creek and Durango, Colorado, led to his lifelong career as an entertainer/spokesman for ragtime and American popular song. During 1959-1961 he wrote, performed, and co-produced 28 television programs for PBS (then NET), which are now considered genre classics. *The Ragtime Era* traces the development of the popular music of that period; the *Turn of the Century* series deals with the interaction of popular music with the nation's social and political fabric.

Max and his growing family moved to New York around 1963. He made his nightclub debut at the historic Blue Angel that year, followed by an extended run in 1964 at the Village Vanguard with his Original Rag Quartet. Television activity continued on PBS, and on the *Bell Telephone Hour*, *Today*, and *The Tonight Show*; radio appearances included many years as a frequent guest of the *Arthur Godfrey Show* on CBS, and on National Public Radio (NPR). In the theatre, his one-man show *Max Morath at the Turn of the Century* was a critical success in 1969, enjoying a four-year national tour. Other productions followed: *The Ragtime Years*, *Living a Ragtime Life*, and *Ragtime and Again*. By the time Max retired from touring in 2005, he had logged over 5,000 live performances in theaters, clubs, and colleges.

At age 70 Max earned a Master's degree in American Studies from Columbia University. His thesis explored the life and work of the American composer Carrie Jacobs-Bond, followed in 2008 by publication of his novel *I Love You Truly* (iUniverse 2008), based on her life. His other writing credits include *The NPR Curious Listener's Guide to Popular Standards* (Penguin 2000); *The Road to Ragtime*, with his wife, the photographer Diane Fay Skomars (Donning 1999); the musical play *Trust Everybody...But Cut the Cards*, based on the newspaper columns of Finley Peter Dunne; *Mr. Dunne's Mister Dooley*, a 65,000-word book (2019) sub-titled *Translating Mister Dooley*, which contains extensive rewrites of the original Dooley columns (1893-1915), the Irish dialect removed; and the musical *One for the Road*, co-produced in 1982 by the St. Louis Repertory Theatre and MUNI Opera. Max's many recordings, primarily on the Vanguard label, include *The Best of Scott Joplin*, *The Ragtime Women*, and *Jonah Man*; *The Ragtime Man* (Omega); and many other recordings incorporate Max's compositions for piano, including "The Cripple Creek Suite," "Golden Hours," "One for Norma," "One for Amelia," and "Three for Diane." Max was the initial recipient of the Sedalia, Missouri *Scott Joplin* award. He has been named as a distinguished alumnus of Colorado College, and in 2016 he was inducted into the Colorado Music Hall of Fame. His screenplay "Blind Boone," written in collaboration with Moss Hall, received first-place recognition at the Nashville Film Festival in 2015.

Max's last performance as an entertainer was his role in a four-day tribute to composer Irving Berlin in New York, 2006. At age 91 he concluded his second career as a lecturer at the Sacramento Ragtime Festival in November 2017.

Max Morath was preceded in death by his parents Gladys (Ramsell) Morath and Frederic Palmer Morath, his brother Frederic Ramsell Morath, and Norma Loy (Tackitt) Morath, his wife of 39 years. Survivors include daughters Kathryn Annette Morath (Robert Wagner) and Christine Lee Mainthow (Michael Mainthow); son Frederic Loyd Morath and daughter-in-law Paula Sue Morath; Diane Fay Skomars, his wife of 30 years, and her daughter Monette Fay Magrath Macdonald (David Macdonald); grandchildren Jordan Claire Wagner, David Lee and Eric Robert Mainthow, Malia Lynn Morath, Finley Fay Margaret Macdonald; and great-grandson Edward Ke'eluohilohanakahi Kehaoha Jr.

The family wishes to thank the good people of Aftenro Home and Essentia Hospice for their tender, loving care. Max will be remembered for his generous heart, positive spirit, and irrepressible charm. Gifts in his memory may be made to the Max Morath Music Scholarship, Fisk University, Nashville TN.